



The Old Ironsides Report

9 Aug 2003

Volume I Issue 19

Newly Reopened Pumping Station Irrigates Fields

**Story by Ahmad Hammadi Abdulamear
Baghdad Now**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Al Jaderia Irrigation pumping station, which provides a constant supply of water to the agricultural communities of Southwestern Baghdad, was restarted Aug. 5th.

Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commanding general, and a young Iraqi boy put the station's eight primary and two secondary pumps back on line with a push of a button during reopening ceremonies.

Chief engineer and station director Nisreen Mohamad Sadik, said the station has 14 personnel. The station provides irrigation water needed by local farmers and communities to reservoirs located near the Baghdad International Airport.

The work was done with Iraqi materials and by Iraqi engineers and laborers, she said.

Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment and 16th Engineer Battalion, using funds provided by the division, worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Al Macaa General Contracting company to repair the station's pumps, electrical equipment, sewer, water and irrigation lines.

"We employed people and coordinated their pay," said Maj. Tom Brady, U.S. Army Corps Engineers. The main purpose of the station is "to feed all major water reservoirs surrounding BIAP through three water mains," he added, "Two of these water mains are badly damaged."

Many were damaged by local residents tapping into the pipes attempting to get water, he said.

Lt. Col. John Smith, 439th Engineer Battalion said, "We restored electrical instruments and sewer lines, water lines, irrigation lines, and we cleaned up many bombs that were found in the area."

He said that he worked with Auday Al-Balelawi, director Al Macaa for general Contracting Company, which did the restoration at the station.

"We surveyed and repaired all the electrical and mechanical damage with available Iraqi materials," said Ali Alshamsi, chief engineer of Al Macaa Company.

The station's reopening is the first of three phases of a plan to restore irrigation water to southwest Baghdad, explained Capt. Hugh Darville, squadron engineer 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment. Work on water mains carrying the water from the station to the community is underway and is expected to be completed in about two weeks.

"Phase three repair of compact water treatment units is currently in the bidding process and should begin



With the help of an Iraqi youth, Brigadier General (P) Martin E. Dempsey, the commanding general for the 1st Armored Division, restarts the Al Jadriyah Irrigation Pump Station to commemorate its reopening. (Photo by US Army SGT Jacob H. Smith)

within one week," he said

"We are here for the children. They are the future of Iraq," Dempsey said. With water from the pumping station, Baghdad's farmers can grow crops for the Iraqi people and add to the country's prosperity. "There is nothing more important than water when you live in the desert," he said.

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

"Risk Management is the Army's principle risk-reduction process to protect the force. Our goal is to make risk management a routine part of planning and executing operational missions."

- Chief of Staff, Army, July 1995

NEWS

McDonald's Gives Wall Street Modest Lift NEW YORK (AP) - Strong sales from McDonald's gave Wall Street a modest lift Friday as investors traded cautiously in the absence of major economic reports. Tech shares sagged on a profit warning from Nvidia. "We had good news from McDonald's and a couple of upgrades ... such as Computer Associates, so the market has a better tone to it," said Todd Clark, head of listed equity trading at Wells Fargo Securities.

Driver Who Nursed Infant Found Innocent RAVENNA, Ohio (AP) - A woman who belonged to an obscure religious sect was found innocent Friday of child endangerment for breast-feeding her baby while driving, but was convicted of three lesser charges. Catherine Nicole Donkers, 29, was found guilty of violating child-restraint laws, driving without a valid driver's license and fleeing police while on the Ohio Turnpike in May.

Israel Troops Raid Hamas Bomb Lab; 4 Dead NABLUS, West Bank (AP) - Israeli troops battled gunmen from the Islamic militant group Hamas early Friday in a raid on a suspected bomb lab that killed one soldier and two militants following a month of relative calm in the region. The firefight in the Askar refugee camp, where Israeli troops also shot and killed a Palestinian protester outside the suspected bomb lab, came as an Israeli official said the course of a security barrier might be altered to encompass less West Bank land than initially planned.

SPORTS

Griese to Make Dolphins Debut Vs. Bucs

MIAMI (AP) - It didn't take Brian Griese long to earn a spot with the Miami Dolphins' first team. The promotion, however, is temporary. Griese's debut with the Dolphins comes Friday night in their exhibition opener against Tampa Bay, and he'll likely start. No. 1 quarterback Jay Fiedler has missed practice the past two days with back spasms and is expected to sit out as a precaution.

Oddly Enough:

Woman Gets Message in Bottle from Father

OSLO, Norway (AP) -- More than 26 years after her father died at sea, a Norwegian woman was shocked to receive a message from him in a bottle. The crinkled note, with her father's handwriting in red marker pen, aroused "powerful feelings" in her, Guri Abelsen said Wednesday. Abelsen said her father, Ola Abelsen, had told her he wrote a message in a bottle which he had thrown into the sea from his fishing boat, Utvik Senior, in February 1977. Later that month, the boat sank with Abelsen and eight other men on board, after disappearing off the Norwegian coast. "Best regards, the Utvik Senior of Tromsø, in the sea this Feb. 2, 1977," the message said. "It was like a sign of life from the Utvik Senior," Guri Abelsen said. The bottle was found by a vacationing couple on a beach in Finnmark, northern Norway, in 1978. The couple's daughter found the note when she rummaged through their belongings after they died recently, and decided to write to the Abelsen family enclosing the bottled message. The families of the Utvik Senior's missing crew were unhappy with a 1978 inquiry into the boat's disappearance that blamed bad weather for the sinking.

Chaplain's thought for the day:

If God Bids Me Fly; I Will Trust Him for the Wings

Whenever the Lord assigns us a difficult task, He gives us what we need to carry it out. John Wesley wrote, "Among the many difficulties of our early ministry, my brother Charles often said, 'If the Lord would give me wings, I'd fly.' I used to answer, 'If God bids me fly, I will trust Him for the wings.'"

--Our Daily Bread

On This Day In History: August 9th 1936

At the 1936 Berlin Olympics, African American track star Jesse Owens wins his fourth gold medal of the Games in the 4x100-meter relay. His relay team set a new world record of 39.8 seconds, which held for 20 years. In their strong showing in track-and-field events at the XIth Olympiad, Jesse Owens and other African American athletes struck a propaganda blow against Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, who planned to use the Berlin Games as a showcase of supposed Aryan superiority.

Source: History Channel.com